

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Spring Inshore Shrimp Season Closure in Vermilion/Teche River Basin

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons and R.S. 56:497 which provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall fix no less than two open seasons each year for all or part of inside waters and a Declaration of Emergency adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 1, 2014 which authorized the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to close the 2014 Spring Inshore Shrimp Season in any portion of Louisiana's inside waters to protect small white shrimp if biological and technical data indicate the need to do so, or enforcement problems develop, the Secretary hereby declares:

The 2014 spring inshore shrimp season will close on July 3, 2014 at one-half hour after sunset in that portion of state inside waters from the Atchafalaya River Ship Channel at Eugene Island as delineated by the River Channel Buoy Line westward to the western shore of Freshwater Bayou Canal.

All remaining state inside waters as well as all state outside waters seaward of the Inside/Outside Shrimp Line, as described in R.S. 56:495 will remain open to shrimping until further notice except for those areas closed to recreational and commercial fishing due to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster.

The number, distribution and percentage of small juvenile white shrimp taken in biological samples within these waters has rapidly increased in recent weeks and these waters are being closed to protect these developing shrimp.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary